



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: RP 111**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Koror, Republic of Palau

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position:

Main Street, Koror, Koror State, Republic of Palau 96940

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objectives of the veterinarian in this shortage situation would be food animal veterinary practice with support for shelter animal practice and collaboration with Palau Community College (PCC) Extension and Ministry of Agriculture Officials regarding animal health. Palau has very active producers raising swine, poultry, small ruminants, and beef cattle. The only veterinarian in Palau currently works for the Koror State Animal Shelter, but is leaving the island in April 2011 to pursue other opportunities. This will leave the entire country without a veterinarian. Palau has a population of nearly 20,000 people centered in Koror State and the nearby islands and this population is supplemented by tourism which brings ~90,000 visitors annually. With increased demand for local meat production and the need for greater food security for this country, the primary objective will be to serve as a food animal practitioner. A secondary objective will be to assist in the Koror State Animal Shelter, and the third objective to collaborate with PCC Food Animal Extension and Ministry of Agriculture Officials regarding animal health. A grant is being written to provide salary for this position in addition to that offered by Koror State for employment within the Animal Shelter.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The activities of the veterinarian in this shortage situation will be to provide food animal expertise to Palau and its food animal producers. The areas of greatest need for activities are with swine and poultry production. The government of Palau is exploring grant opportunities for salary funding to attract VMLRP candidates. Additionally, the State of Koror has potential funding opportunities for the %effort dedicated to Shelter practice. The third area of activity for this veterinarian will be interaction with PCC Extension and Ministry of Agriculture Officials regarding animal health to contribute to initiatives to ensure food security and animal health for Palau. It is imperative that a veterinarian is recruited to Palau to ensure success of the food animal producers and to ensure food security for this country.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Efforts to recruit a veterinarian to Palau have focused on shelter management and stray dog population control. However, the agricultural animals of Palau have been without veterinary care and producers are left with no long-term veterinary council on animal health. Based on requests from the Ministry of Agriculture and PCC Extension, veterinarians periodically visit Palau, however these visiting veterinarians do not stay long in the country and are not able to develop lasting relationships with producers. The ability to recruit a veterinarian would be greatly facilitated with the VMLRP to offset the challenges facing Palau to provide an attractive salary.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Agriculture is an important part of life in Palau and has the potential to increase food security if they are able to improve sustainability of the various agricultural industries. When considering food sources within the islands of the Pacific, reliable and healthy sources of protein are consistently limited (especially fresh sources of protein, rather than canned or preserved meats of low quality that are often imported). Palauans on average spend a large percentage (~17%) of their income on food, which is higher than almost any other expenditure other than housing (~19%). This high percentage is largely due to the need for imported products. Farmers and producers within the country are able to successfully provide meat for local consumption, however they are lacking basic veterinary care and consult which puts them at tremendous risk. The only veterinarian working in a permanent position in Palau is leaving to pursue other opportunities. Even when replaced, this position is dedicated to shelter medicine rather than for agricultural animals. This could have tremendous impacts on the country regarding food security, health/diet of the human population, environmental effects, and decreased capacity for food animal production. A loss of animal agriculture would be devastating. With the grants submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture and PCC Extension, the partial salary potentially offered by the Koror State Government to assist in shelter medicine, and the VMLRP funds, Palau will be poised to hire a veterinarian to address these critical issues.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

We are not seeking a "Service in Emergency" agreement at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name:	<u>Fred Sengebau/ Kasgar Rengulbai</u>	<u>Thomas Taro</u>
Title:	<u>Director/Livestock Director</u>	<u>Director of Extension</u>
Organization:	<u>Ministry of Agriculture</u>	<u>Palau Community College</u>
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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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